

this matter is blocked at once by the absence of data or explanation. When we realize that nearly all computations as to the speed and direction of migration depend upon the accuracy of these isochronal lines it is obvious that other students of bird migration will naturally demand the same presentation of detailed data that is customary in other fields of scientific research.—W. S.

**Faxon on 'Relics of Peale's Museum.'**<sup>1</sup>—Dr. Faxon has done a commendable piece of work in publishing an annotated catalogue of the types of Wilson, Bonaparte and Ord formerly in the Philadelphia (= Peale's) Museum and now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge. The history of the collection which precedes the catalogue is very interesting reading, and when we consider the vicissitudes through which it passed we are inclined to marvel that any of the specimens were fortunate enough to survive!

We entirely agree with Dr. Faxon that the known history of the specimens and the careful comparisons that he has made with figures and descriptions clearly establish them as the types, even though the original labels were lost.

Fifty-three of these ancient types are now safely preserved and catalogued in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and together with the type of the Cape May Warbler in Vassar College, and those of the Mississippi Kite and Broad-winged Hawk in the Philadelphia Academy, they probably comprise all that are extant of the originals upon which the descriptions of Wilson, Ord and Bonaparte in the 'American Ornithology' and its continuation were based.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. Mathews' great work continues to appear regularly and maintains its high standard of excellence. The publishers announce that with the completion of Vol. IV, the subscription list will be absolutely closed. No more than 260 copies will be issued and "should not all of these be taken up the surplus will be destroyed."

The two parts now before us complete the Anseriformes and Pelecaniformes. The discussion of nomenclature is very full and the classification and generic subdivisions of the latter group are gone into in great detail. Many pages are devoted to replies to criticisms as to the treatment of certain groups and recognition of certain subspecies and genera, while the 'British Museum Catalogue,' 'B. O. U. List' and 'A. O. U. Check-List' as well as several individual authors come in for some sharp criticism. In all cases of nomenclatural discussion however, Mr. Mathews seems very fair, abiding rigidly by the International Code, without any quibbling over individual cases.

<sup>1</sup> Relics of Peale's Museum. By Walter Faxon. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. LIX, No. 3. pp. 119-148. July, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Australia. Vol. IV, Part 2, February 17, 1915. Part 3, June 23, 1915.

The question of recognition of genera and subspecies is of course a matter of personal opinion, though he brings out some important and original facts in treating of the Gannets and Frigate Bird.

In consideration of the general accuracy of minute details we might call attention to the apparent omission of a synonym under *Mesocorbo ater ater*. We are informed in the last paragraph that the bird figured is the type of *M. a. territorii* but this name occurs nowhere else in the article. So also with *Hypoleucus varius whytei* under *H. v. perthi*.

We note as new forms only the following *Phalacrocorax carbo indicus* (p. 171) India; *Scæophaethon rubricauda rothschildi* (p. 303) Laysan, Niuhau; *S. r. brevirostris* (p. 303) Bonin Isls. Most of the new names required in the treatment of the Pelecaniformes have been previously published in the 'Austral Avian Record'.—W. S.

**Recent Monographs by Oberholser.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Oberholser has recently published the results of three careful systematic studies of the American Spotted Owl; the Ruddy Kingfisher; and Long-tailed Goatsucker of the far East.

He finds that the four recognized races of the Spotted Owl resolve themselves into two valid forms. *Strix o. occidentalis* of the Pacific Coast region of which *S. o. caurina* is a synonym and *S. o. lucida* ranging from Colorado and western Texas to northern Mexico, of which *S. o. huachucae* is a synonym. The presence of a dark and light phase of plumage in this species is responsible in part for the description of so many supposed races.

Of the Kingfisher *Entomothera coromanda* nine races are recognized of which five are new. *E. c. mizorhina* (p. 645) N. Andaman Isl.; *E. c. neophora* (p. 646), Tapanuli Bay, Sumatra; *E. c. pagana* (p. 648), N. Pagi Isl., Sumatra; *E. c. ochrothorectis* (p. 652), Masbate Isl., Philippines, and *E. c. bangsi* (p. 654) Ishigaki Isl., Riu Kiu Isls.

The goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus*, is also divisible into nine races, *C. m. mesophanis* (p. 590), Ambrina Isl. and *C. m. anamesus* (p. 593), Singapore Isl., being new. These papers straighten out three difficult groups of birds very satisfactorily.—W. S.

**Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast.**<sup>2</sup>—This little volume is

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<sup>1</sup> Critical Notes on the Subspecies of the Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis* (Xantus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 49, pp. 251-257. July 26, 1915.

A Review of the Subspecies of the Ruddy Kingfisher, *Entomothera coromanda* (Linnæus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 48, pp. 639-657. May 18, 1915.

A Synopsis of the Races of the Long-tailed Goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsfield. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 48, pp. 587-599. May 3, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast. A Guide-book for Scientific Travelers in the West. Edited under the Auspices of the Pacific Coast Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Illustrated with Nineteen text figures, twenty-nine half-tone plates and fourteen maps. Paul Elder and Company, Publishers. San Francisco. 12 mo., pp. 1-294.